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NRD

14 November 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: NRO ExCom Meeting on 14 October 1964

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1. Present were Mr. McCone, Mr. Vance, General Carter, Dr. Fubini, and Dr. McMillan.

2. The first item discussed was the state of requirement for the military for U-2 coverage [redacted] Various alternatives, such as RB-57's, B-47's, DC-6's, and DC-4's, were to be looked into by McMillan. CIA was to look into the possibility of getting U-2 coverage [redacted]

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[redacted] This matter was subsequently resolved by DOD who arranged for reconnaissance [redacted]

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3. The second item was a discussion of the recent GAMBIT failure and the recent CORONA failures. Dr. McMillan stated that he had talked to Dan Houghton about making necessary changes at Lockheed to increase management capabilities. He also stated he was taking action to buck up the Air Force functions at the Lockheed plant. He did not go into details about this. He stated that the main problem with Lockheed was that there was no "Kelly Johnson" in the satellite program.

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4. Dr. McMillan explained the arrangements for technical direction of the GAMBIT program and read from a memorandum prepared for him explaining just what Aerospace did. Regardless of the semantics, it was perfectly apparent that the Air Force, in the person of General Greer and his people, retained full technical direction of the program since all work orders, all contract changes, and all directions to the contractors had to be approved by Greer or Greer's people. Furthermore, all the contracts were held by Greer and not by Aerospace. Mr. McCone and I both indicated that this was identical with the manner in which we were operating the FULCRUM program. Vance directed McMillan to furnish copies of the Aerospace contract and one of the hardware contractor's contracts on GAMBIT to Mr. McCone.

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5. Subsequent review of these contracts indicates that they are identical in purpose and principle and intent to the contracts we hold with FULCRUM and that technical direction clearly remains with the Government agency (Air Force for GAMBIT, CIA for FULCRUM) having responsibility for the program.

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7. Secretary Vance said he was about to mail a letter to Mr. McCone on the proposal to send Crowley to the West Coast. It was agreed that upon receipt of this letter, if everything seemed buttoned up, then McMillan, Crowley, Greer, and General Carter would meet on the West Coast upon General Carter's return from his Far East trip.

8. It developed subsequently that the Vance letter had too many caveats and areas for misunderstanding that would have to be negotiated, and accordingly Dr. McMillan and General Carter agreed that the negotiation should be done here in Washington and not in the presence of subordinates on the West Coast. It later developed that General Carter became sick in Honolulu and would have had to cancel the meeting anyway. The present status is that General Carter will confer with Dr. McMillan, indicating the areas that still need clarification as regards the Vance-McCone correspondence.

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director

(Dictated but not read)

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